Flying Snake
A Journal of Cryptozoology, Folklore and Forteana

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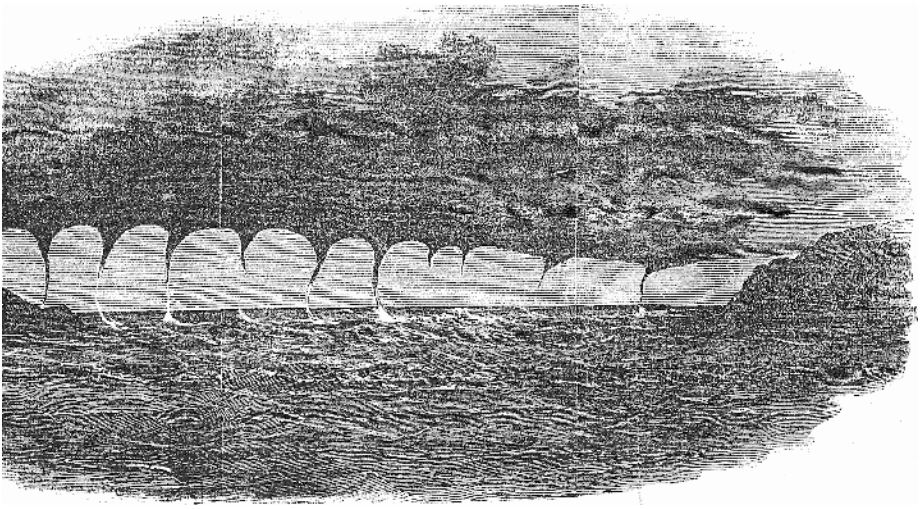

Strange Weather

Waterspouts Seen Off Malta

Illustrated London News

April 5th 1856

St Paul & St Peter in England • The Giant Trinidad Anaconda of 1889 • Kangaroos in America • Odd Water - Lizard in Dorset 1833 • Rabbit - Cat Hybrid of 1901 • British Chameleons • Hail stones that emit light • Trees Growing out of Chimneys • Ice Worm • Flying "Monsters" in Spain • Pink Mantis • Ball Lightning in Hong Kong• Coyote in Wales • Giraffes • More!

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DR DEVOS DIARY

"For I pray God for the introduction of new creatures into this island. For I pray God for the ostriches of Salisbury Plain, the beavers of the Medway and silver fish of Thames." Christopher Smart ` `Rejoice in the Lamb`.Poet,naturalist,lunatic (1722-1771)

"The lunatic, the lover,and the poet are of imagination all the same." Shakespeare. A Midsummer Night`s Dream.

Well hoorah! It`s that time Flying Snake hits your door step with a friendly flutter of reptilian feathers,or not,as the case may be,if you get the full colour pdf version. This time Dr Devo is not going to go ahead with a self-indulgent ramble about his eccentric daily or nightly activities, but rather I`ll give you a summary of what I`ve been doing (cryptozoologically- speaking) in the last few months:

The plan to get a good printer for an all colour Flying Snake has gone the way of the Dodo,in other words probably extinct,unless it can be resurrected, frozen mammoth style, (a much closer prospect than hitherto believed apparently.) The mammoth I mean,not my printer plans. However thanks to good American friend and excellent Fortean researcher Kay Massingill I now have full access to an American family history newspaper database which covers the period 1690-2010 A.D. and this resource has uncovered a large amount of fascinating stories,some of which are within this issue. Such as a giant snake in Trinidad, a horned rabbit, white jackal in Africa, a 1901 cabbit, and a tree growing out of a chimney in Trinidad. (Back cover. No I do not have a Trinidad fixation, I have not caught some sort of Fortean flu which has programmed my mind to constantly try and find different strange events on the island of Trinidad! I just thought it would accompany a similar chimney-on-tree from my home town.)

I`m still collecting data on British crocodiles with Bob Skinner and Bob found quite a few stories of British chameleon sightings whilst at the Weird Weekend event in Devon this Summer. Javier is back with an account of flying creatures in Spain. Richard George reports on feral cats in Kerguelen and Dr Devo reports on strange weather. I was hoping to hear back from some of the band members of Devo about their song Pink Pussycat via their archivist but so far not even a miaow! He probably thinks I`m barking mad which of course I am. Woof woof! Anyway I hope you enjoy this issue!

Kangaroos in the United States

The Milwaukee flap of 1978-79 Part 1

The following few pages concentrate on a wave of kangaroo sightings near Milwaukee in Wisconsin, in 1978, from local newspapers.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

April 13th 1978

TAILED

It`s that kangaroo again

Town of Pewaukee - The Humane Society is skeptical. Waukesha County Sheriff`s Department officials are laughing. But members of the Haeselich family - Esther, Jill and Peter - are dead serious, and insist that they saw a kangaroo in the backyard of their Town of Pewaukee home Wednesday evening. It was the second sighting of a kangaroo reported in the area in a week ."It was going pretty quick. It was hopping. We knew it had to be a kangaroo," said Jill Haeselich. Jill, her husband Peter, and his mother, Ester, were sitting in the dining room eating dinner about 6.15pm when they spotted the animal in their backyard ,Jill said. The Haeselichs live at W226-N295 Mt Vernon Dr., In the Town of Pewaukee.

50 Feet Away

Jill Haeselich said she had only seen the animal out of the corner of her eye but her husband and mother-in-law had gotten a good look at it. She said the animal had been about 50 feet from their dining room picture window. "My husband ran out the back door and saw it running - no, jumping - north to south," she said. It then quickly went over the

hill, she said. She said they had seen it only for a matter of seconds. “We were guessing it was about between three and five feet tall. It was so fast.” Mrs. Haeselich said she then had called Waukesha Police Department and the Humane Society. Soon after, the Waukesha Sheriff`s Department, which got the kangaroo news from the Waukesha police, called the family to ask in which direction the animal was heading.

Officials Ready

Humane Society officials said they were ready in case it is seen again - and cornered. Albert P. Keller , manager of the Wisconsin Humane Society, said he and other society officials had been briefed by zoo authorities on what to do if they encountered the kangaroo, because the Haeselichs` wasn`t the only sighting of a kangaroo in the area.

Since last week`s sighting, he said, “we`ve spent some time learning what to do when we see the kangaroo - how to capture it, and what drugs to use” if they are necessary to slow the animal. A Waukesha police sergeant said there had been about three reported kangaroo sightings in the last week or so. In the last case,he said, a woman reported seeing an automobile strike a kangaroo in the area of Moorland Rd and Blue Mound Rd in the City of Brookfield, Keller said. “There are some things (about this) that cause you to be skeptical,” said Keller. “There`s no record of (kangaroo) ownership in the area, and there`s no kangaroos reported missing,” he said, adding, “ We`re on a wild kangaroo chase at the moment.” Keller advised future kangaroo sighters to have one person keep an eye on the animal while another person calls authorities.

Milwaukee County Zoo Director George Speidel said no kangaroos were missing from the zoo, the only one in the area that has kangaroos. He said he thought it would be difficult for a kangaroo to survive a Wisconsin winter, “ supposing it was out all winter.” “If there is a kangaroo out there, I`m surprised that more people haven`t seen it,” Speidel said.

WAUKESHA FREEMAN

April 14th 1978

Yet Another Kangaroo?

Not a German shepherd. No Great Dane, either. Kitty cat? Nope,nope. Kangaroo? Hmmmm. William J (Some people call him Bill) Busch saw what he thinks may have been a kangaroo on his way home from the Ethan Allen School for Boys at about 4:45 p.m Thursday.

Busch was driving on Highway 83 just south of Highway 18 when scampering across the road, about 15 feet ahead, was a dog he thought. Then he realized he couldn`t identify the shape of any particular dog. “It wasn`t woolly. “ “It wasn`t furry.” “ It had a slightly odd-shaped head, to me.” And short little legs ( two) in front and lonnnnnnng feet in back. He looked to be about 3 feet tall, Busch said, though the alleged `roo was hunched over a bit. In fact, Busch thought the mystery scamperer may have been using all four appendages to scamper.

Busch does not insist that he saw a kangaroo. If he did see one, though , he would not be the first. He runs a poor third on sightings, and that`s just in this country, this week. Meanwhile,the Sheriff`s Department heard of no sightings since Wednesday. Anyway, Busch would like it very much if someone else would see the kangaroo. He does not want people to think he is a loony. By the way, what do you do for a living out there at the boy`s school, Bill?

“ This will really put the frosting on the cake”, he said . “ I`m a social worker. `Social worker, after crazy day, sees crazy things.,` Right?” No, Bill. These days, it isn`t a bit crazy to see a kangaroo around here. Life will adjust of course. A couple of weeks ago, it would have been thought odd to see a sheriff`s deputy hopping through the court-house, kangaroo-like. Not now. And a while back, somebody callling to tell us about a kangaroo might have been shifted to several people. But now, when such a call comes in, one shouts, “Who is our kangaroo editor today?” And someone always answers.

To be continued…

Coypus in Norfolk

J.J. Buxton

The Countryman Summer 1959. Pages 234-237

Various creatures now resident in the British Isles have been introduced at one time or another. Many of them we take for granted: grey squirrels (in some areas) and pheasants , for example, are part of the everyday scene. Rabbits,too,have been here a very long time. We now We now have a new animal, the coypu, which in certain districts is obviously going to become one of our commonest.

The ancestors of the coypus which now infest many of our slow-running rivers, particularly in East Anglia,lived in the vast swamps of Brazil. Specimens were brought to Europe between the wars to produce the fur known as nutria.

The coypu is not only a pest but has an unattractive[1] appearance. It is a rodent with some of the rat`s more unpleasant features, magnified by its size,and large,bright orange front teeth. Its long, rather course outer fur is the colour of a brown rat`s ; but the more mole-like inner fur so prized by the ladies is dark chocolate and very soft. When swimming, a coypu looks rather like an otter, but with less back showing. The tail is much thinner than an otter`s and does not appear so much like a long plank of wood on the surface. Only the hind feet are webbed, and they are considerably bigger than the front. Long sharp claws exist on all four feet, enabling their possessors to dig powerfully. The coypu affords a good example of the way Nature suits an animal to her environment. The mammary glands are situated along the back, so that the young can feed while their mother is in the water. It is a quaint sight to see three or four floating at right angles to her, as she lies with only the top of her back and head above the surface.

Being strictly vegetarian, coypus do not scavenge as much as rats; but they have taken a great liking to various farm crops, of which sugar-beet and mangolds probably top of the list. Kale fields near the Norfolk dykes attract them, and growing corn is often badly damaged. They eat grass, particularly in

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[1] But presumably not unattractive to another coypu of the opposite gender?! Or are there gay coypus?! I`ve heard of gay swans but I digress.

frost ,when nothing better offers;but here the worst damage from the farmer`s point of view is that caused by their numerous tracks: coypus are expert at causing a hay crop to lodge, so that it becomes difficult to cut. Their commonest foods include the roots of water dock, lesser bulrush,candle rush,sedge and other plants abundant round the Broads. The younger shoots of reeds also receive some attention. Tame or enclosed coypus are quite happy with bread and biscuits, and also appreciate apples.

In Britain the coypu appears to have no natural enemies. A bittern was recently seen to rise from a reed bed near a small bush under which were found the remains of a not-long-dead coypu;but this was in hard weather, with two inches of snow on the ground,and the animal had probably died of starvation and cold before the bittern found it. . Very young coypus have been found half eaten at a marsh harrier`s nest. At birth the young are about seven inches long, including the tail. They are fully covered with fur and able to swim, but do not leave the family circle until fairly well grown. Breeding may take place at any time,and each female probably rears three families a year. These average between four and eight young, though eleven is by no means uncommon.

One of the coypu`s most remarkable accomplishments is that of holding its breath under water. One which was kept in a cage before being sent to a zoo was seen to go under and remain motionless for twenty minutes, the water being just deep enough to cover it. The observer had then to go away. When he returned next day it had apparently got over its alarm, remaining on dry land to receive its breakfast of sugar beet. Like whales or seals, coypus can restrict the flow of blood to the brain,so that the metabolism slows down.They can swim well below the surface and, when hunted by dogs,often go straight to the bottom,where they remain beyond the reach and patience of man and dog.

Despite the cold climate, coypus are bigger in this country than in Brazil. They have been known to reach a weight of 26 lb. in the wild state and 40lb. in captivity, although in Norfolk they average between 18 and 23 lb. In a really cold spell they cannot dive through ice and seem disinclined to burrow in the snow for roots. Their coats are apparently not then warm enough for comfort, and they sit about on the ice looking thoroughly miserable, occasionally rubbing their front paws together. Their strange cry can then be heard at all times of the day, whereas normally it is heard only at night and in the early morning. It sounds rather like that of a lost sheep, with a strange impatient note, and is audible at a considerable distance on

a still night. When in an aggressive mood they also utter low growls, which can be heard only at close range.

On the Broads, where the high water-table often gives rise to shallow flooding, coypus normally live in marshes covered by thick reed or sedge. Here they do not trouble to dig holes but merely make platforms to keep themselves dry. They are particularly fond of lying up during the day in a bramble thicket in or near a reed bed. When after farm crops they usually follow drainage dykes, digging large holes in the banks, where they live during the day. These holes are big enough for a small terrier to enter and turn around inside. Coypus may dig where water-voles have made their holes, but by no means always do so. They have dug into a new dyke bank before any other creature has made a scratch at all. The holes are of a set pattern, entering the bank at normal water level, so that about half is above the surface; farther in they rise just enough to allow the occupants to sit in the dry. Sometimes there is an entrance on the land side, but most of the holes are of the dead-end variety. Whole families live in them.

Although coypus are quite easily caught in open country, it is almost impossible to exterminate them in reed beds. They may change the vegetation in certain areas of thick marsh in the Broads, and other secondary effects may become apparent in time: for instance , on the birds which nest in this sort of country and may not put up with disturbance by these large and clumsy newcomers. Water rails used to breed regularly around Horsey Mere, but no nest has been found since coypus became numerous there. Perhaps the barriers will help to keep them under control, but it is unlikely that they would tackle any but the very young. Full-grown coypus are fierce when cornered and can give nasty bites with their razor-sharp teeth.There are signs that they will become a serious nuisance before long.

Wikipedia Commons. Brazilian Coypu.

A Collection of Siamese Cryptozoological Curiosities

"The `American` newspaper of March 29th 1833 included a long summary of some unusual animals in Siam (Thailand) which is probably a mixture of fanciful beasts and genuine animals. Below is an abridged version:
The animal kingdom in Siam: The class of reptiles is extremely numerous,and many amongst them have peculiar characteristics. For instance the Challin, a small lizard,in order to accelerate its speed, is provided with wings or webs to accelerate its speed,lying close to the breast, which it spreads out as occasion requires it, and the Tacoun, another of the same species, which attains to the length of eight or ten feet, but is by no means venomous, and lives upon the blood it sucks from cows and goats. It is of the same class as the league of America, and is likewise found about the Lake Como , in Italy This animal is of a hideous aspect;its skin is of a blackish brown, speckled on the stomach with white spots, and it has an inflated protuberance running along its back,from the head to the root of the tail,which is between three and four inches high, and stands on end like a comb. The Siamese believe its very look to be mortal;it has no teeth,but gums of horny substance…The Ngu-Hon or barking serpent,is a species of rattlesnake of the most dangerous description,for unless assistance be immediately at hand, a most excruciating death is rapidly consequent on its bite…The Ngu Sing is not a venemous reptile, but when it espies either a human being or an animal,it coils itself up and rolls towards the object;as soon as it reaches it, the serpent aims a tremendous blow at it with its tail,and then pursues its course. In this respect it resembles the lashing serpent of Ceylon…There are three kinds of tigers in Siam, the largest and wildest of them being the Sun Crong,which has a skin striped with red,white,yellow and black. The Sun Dong grows to the size of a dog,but shuns human society;its skin is covered with black white and yellow spots. The third kind is called the Sun Plang,resembling a grey cat, both in form and colour but attains the size of a house dog…The most remarkable bird…is the Nocarim, as it is called by the Siamese,which stands seven feet high,and is proportionably broad;his colour is of an ash grey,sometimes besprinkled with red feathers about the neck and back. Its head is as large as a man`s and has a conically shaped bill nearly two feet in length…its food is grain and vegetables,and its eggs like the ostrich`s…it…frequently roams about solitary places."

"And did those feet?" Were St Paul and St Peter ever in England?

The folklore of Joseph of Arimathea`s visit to Glastonbury is well known but less familiar is the possibility that St Paul and St Peter may once have trodden on English soil. The following accounts come from the Notes and Queries column in the Somerset Herald 1898:

Page 196. 1898:

ST PAUL IN SOMERSET:

" I have long been familiar with the story of Joseph of Arimathea landing at Glastonbury and founding a church there, but I only recently heard that St Paul is supposed to have visited,and preached in Somerset during one of his missionary journeys. Can any one of your deeply read contributors to "Notes and Queries" tell me if there is any foundation for such a belief?" - ALPHA.

Page 216:

ST PAUL IN SOMERSET:

It used to be argued,and not without some show of reason, that it was highly probable that St Paul visited Britain between his first and second imprisonments at Rome, but the fuller knowledge of his life which has since been gained seems to show that it is impossible that he could have done so, as his time is fully accounted for in other ways. It is true that Clement of Rome, his contemporary, says that he reached " the limits of the West," Theodoret (450 A.D.) that he evangelised the islands in the sea, Venantius Fortunatus that he or his writings reached Britain (660 A.D.) and " Ultima Thule" and Eusebius that some of the Apostles passed into Britain, but the limits of the West may have been Spain or even Rome; the sea was the Mediterranean, and Apostles is synonymous in this passage with early missionaries.

“ Alpha” will find all the arguments in favour of the visit to Somersetshire set forth in Warner`s Glastonbury, pp 152-159 - MATHETES

ST PAUL IN SOMERSET Whilst he would be a bold man who would say positively that St. Paul ever visited this country there are a great many people who would hesitate before saying positively that he did not do so. There is much evidence that goes to show that one or more of the apostles reached England, and as Dr Henry remarks, “ Though it would be rash and unwarrantable in a modern writer to affirm positively that the Apostle St Paul preached the Gospel in Britain , yet it is certainly no presumption to affirm that if any of the apostles preached in this country it was most probably the Apostle Paul.” Theodoret has this striking passage, “ Those our fishermen and publicans and tentmakers have propogated the Gospel among all nations; not only among the Romans, and they who were their subjects, but the *Britons* ,so that it may be said in one word that all the different nations of mankind have received the Laws of the Gospel”. Nicephorus says “ *that one of the Apostles* went to the extreme countries of the ocean, and to the *British Isles* .” The Welsh historians state - I cannot say what their statement is worth - that Christianity was brought over to their countrymen by the family of Caractacus on his return from his captivity at Rome, and that St Paul returned with the British chieftain to his territory - the Silures. As the release of Caractacus from prison to Rome is supposed to have taken place about the same time as St Paul it is not unnatural to suppose that if the Apostle was anxious to visit Britain at all he would take advantage of the release of Caractacus to visit Britain in company with a chieftain of the country;and if this was the case he would most probably visit those parts bordering on the Severn. Although it is a matter which will probably never be definitely settled the whole question is a most interesting one. - W.C.H.

ST PAUL IN SOMERSET - When “ W.C.H.” In his interesting paragraph on this subject, concludes that the question of St Paul`s visit to England can never be definitely settled it seems to me that he overlooks the fact that the Acts of Apostles gives us a connected account of St Peter`s life from his conversion till his first trial before Nero, and that but a short interval elapses between this trial and his martyrdom. During that interval we know from the Epistles of Timothy and Titus, our only reliable authorities for it, that he visited Ephesus,Crete,and Greece,and how can we possibly find time for a journey to a country so remote as Britain? The passage quoted from Theodoret (Hypo Nomon,929) cannot possibly mean St. Paul preached to the Britons unless he also preached to the “Æthiopians,Scythians,Sarmatians,Bactrians,Persians,Indians,Chinese,Cimbrians,and Germans,”

all of which are mentioned by name in the same sentence. As for Nicephorus he lived as long after St. Paul as we after the landing of Augustine in Thanet. Can "W.C.H." mention a single definite statement by any author living before 1000 A.D. to the effect that one of the 12 Apostles preached in Britain? Even St Joseph of Arimethea doesn`t make his appearance in Somerset till the 13th century - YOUR CORRESPONDENT.

Fig 1. St Paul. Wikipedia Commons

Fig 2. St Peter. Wikipedia Commons

ST PAUL IN SOMERSET - Unfortunately I am not able to enter into a discussion upon the subject with " Your Correspondent" , who certainly knows far more about the matter than I do, and who evidently has access to books of whose very existence I am ignorant. My knowledge of the authors who lived previous to 1000 A.D is extremely limited , and no library within my reach even contains Savile`s *Introduction of Christianity into Britain* or Morgan`s *St Paul in Britain,* from either of which I might learn upon what authorities and what evidence the supposed visit is based. Fortunately,however, I am not called upon to prove that St Paul *did* visit England , but simply to show that there is reason to believe

that such a visit was not impossible - which seems to me an easy matter, So far as I am familiar with the latter part of St Paul`s life the facts are these: After about two years` imprisonment at Caesarea he was sent to Rome for trial, in consequence of an appeal he made to Caesar. He remained at Rome two years, living in a hired house or lodgings, and preaching the Gospel without molestation or hindrance…But I think all authorities fix the time of his execution at the very end of Nero`s reign, and early in the month of June 68 (A.D) , is generally accepted as the date. This would leave from three to five years of his life to be accounted for , and would give him ample time to visit Britain and other countries - and in fact several of the early writers distinctly state that he visited Spain (see various authorities in Jacobson`s Pates Apost note , tom I p. 26.) Clement, who was certainly St Paul`s contemporary, states that he preached to the *bound of the West* . I repeat what I said in my previous note, that he would be a bold man who would say positively that Dt Paul ever visited this country, but certainly such a visit was not impossible, and amongst those who would be sorry to say definitely that St Paul never came to Britain is W. C. H.

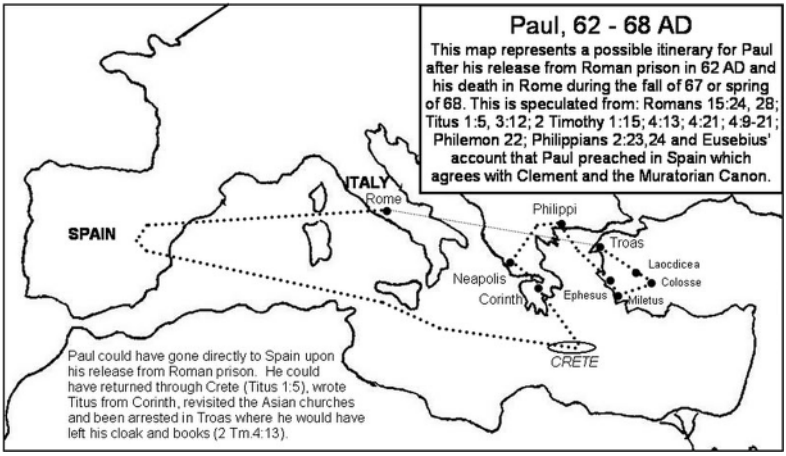

Paul, 62 - 68 AD
This map represents a possible itinerary for Paul after his release from Roman prison in 62 AD and his death in Rome during the fall of 67 or spring of 68. This is speculated from: Romans 15:24, 28; Titus 1:5, 3:12; 2 Timothy 1:15; 4:13; 4:21; 4:9-21; Philemon 22; Philippians 2:23,24 and Eusebius' account that Paul preached in Spain which agrees with Clement and the Muratorian Canon.
ITALY
Rome
SPAIN
Philippi
Troas
Laocdicea
Colosse
Neapolis
Corinth
Ephesus
Miletus
CRETE
Paul could have gone directly to Spain upon his release from Roman prison. He could have returned through Crete (Titus 1:5), wrote Titus from Corinth, revisited the Asian churches and been arrested in Troas where he would have left his cloak and books (2 Tm.4:13).

Fig 3. Paul`s possible journey to Spain. See this web site for map and other information.

http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/acts.html

Reproduced with permission of Galyn Williams.

Flying Snake by Mark Raines

Strange Weather

The following text in the Illustrated London News accompanied the image of the waterspouts on the cover:

EXTRAORDINARY WATERSPOUT

From a Correspondent: "I send you a sketch of a phenomenon seen on our recent outward passage to Malta,of which the following is a brief account:- Lat. 14 N. Long .8 40 E ;March 2. The weather was just what one may expect in the Mediterranean at this time of year - the sea smooth,the sky cloudless,and the atmosphere calm. At one p.m a large spreading cloud arose in the north-east, sprinkling a few drops of rain in passing, and then,gradually contracting,it settled lowdown in the horizon astern. The two centre water-spouts (of enormous size) formed first,the others followed in rapid succession, and in five minutes no fewer than ten were distinctly visible at the same time,and proceeding from the same cloud. Their distance from us was six miles. They were visible a quarter of an hour, and then passed away to the south-west,two of them bursting on the land. The island to the right in the Sketch is Galita,and the point of land to the left, c.Senat, Africa. The base of the cloud was very dark, gradually shaded off towards the top." HARRY CAIGER.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW

45: p. 223, May 1917

SHOWERS OF ORGANIC MATTER

Waldo L Mc Atee

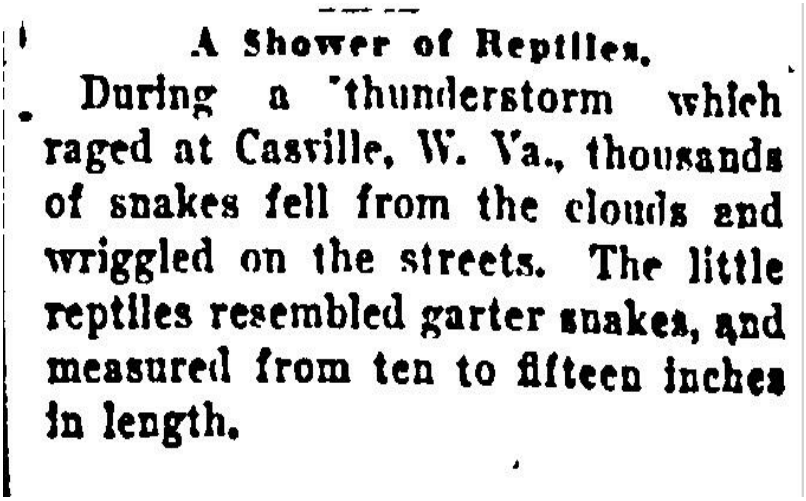
The MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for May, 1894 (p. 215) states that during a severe hailstorm " at Boving, 8 miles east of Vicksburg, Miss, a go-pher turtle 6 by 8 inches and entirely incased in ice fell with the hail."

TADPOLE RAINS **FORTEAN TIMES** no 40

In several places in Living Wonders we commented on the comparative rari-ty of showers of tadpoles among the torrents of frogs and toads from

the sky. We are pleased to note another occurrence, being the recollection of 80 year-old Leonard Burrough, as told in the Maidenhead Advertiser 4 Dec 1981. He said he vividly remembered the day, in about 1910, when, aged nine, his family uprooted to Maidenhead from Somerset. On the day they moved into a dairy on Market St, a violent storm broke during the afternoon, which was the worst in his memory. The sky became " darker than the darkest night" and the torrential rainfall, thunder and lightning were terrifying. When the storm cleared he wandered round to explore the High St, and was astonished to find it alive with thousands of tiny frogs and tadpoles. I`ll try to track down records of this event one day, but our first impression is that the presence of tadpoles gives a good rebuff to those who argue that this kind of phenomenon is due to the rain drawing frogs from hiding places under leaves or in cracks or undergrowth . We hope old Mr Burrough`s memory proves reliable.

Bob Rickard



A Shower of Reptiles.

During a thunderstorm which raged at Casville, W. Va., thousands of snakes fell from the clouds and wriggled on the streets. The little reptiles resembled garter snakes, and measured from ten to fifteen inches in length.

WASHINGTON BEE Washington DC

August 23rd 1902

MACCLESFIELD EXPRESS January 26th 1984 - abbreviated.

BOLTS OF FIRE STRIKE FEAR

"Freak bolts of lightning and thunder rained down on the villages of Gawsworth and North Rode - cutting electricity to parts of Gawsworth for up to eight hours and bringing stories of miraculous escapes by local people. Many people described the balls of blue and white flame which landed near them. And local residents thought a terrific explosion had taken place. Electricity supplies to 60 houses in Gawsworth were cut at 5.15 on Tuesday night last week when lightning struck the sub station near the village school. Board engineers rushed to the sub-station and worked for most of the night to restore power. The last consumer was re-connected at 1 a.m. The following day."

SCISSORS

"Local vet`s daughter 18-year-old Ruth Morten had one of the luckiest escapes as she walked down the drive of the family home The Knoll,Gawsworth,to feed her horse.She was carrying a pair of scissors on a piece of string to cut the twine on a bale of hay when she was enveloped in light. Terrified , she fled back into the house to find that the scissors had been broken into a number of pieces by the bolt. And local ambulance driver Phyllis Twemlow had a similar experience at her nearby home The Byre, Church lane, Gawsworth. Arriving home she was sitting in her car outside the house when it was enveloped in blue flames. " It was a dreadful experience," said Phyllis. " I thought someone had put a bomb in the car…"

Q. JNL ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY., 46, pp 271- 287, 1920. J.E. Clark.

PHOSPHORESCENT FLASHES OF LIGHT IN HAIL JULY 1918.

Jonathan Webb :" On that date [16/7/1918] a devastating hailstorm occurred along the (now) Surrey/London border. I have these notes in the TORRO[1] database (02-03) Trough moved rather quickly N.E. Surface winds light S.SW. at 16,000ft wind WSW c. 45 kn. The southern outskirts of London were. affected along the 35 km swath of this H6 storm; hail up to 60 mm across was measured. (Clark, 1920)" The Q.J. paper regarding 16 July 1918, Surrey, includes " When the hailstones struck the windows, there was a phosphorescent flash of light." Dr T.Meaden.

John Brocklesby .`Elements of Meteorology` 1855,on p.157 (under electric rain, hail and snow) wrote: France, 28 October 1772 "…as the Abbé Bertholdon was travelling between Brignai and Lyon ,in the midst of a heavy storm,he was surprised at seeing the raindrops and hailstones."

High snow-drift in front of monk`s conduit,
Sherborne,Dorset ,February 1978. Editor`s collection.

[1] TORRO =TORNADO RESEARCH ORGANISATION.

Ball Lightning in Hong Kong

From a document I found at the (then) Royal Observatory Library Hong Kong.

Document date: July 31st 1982

The whole family was in Hideaway, just before 10:00 hours. A thunder shower of heavy rain was in progress. There was thunder and lightning.

William`s statement.

I was in the bedroom tidying up my bed: looking up I saw a flash of light fill the doorway. It was a white light. Then Mummy came in looking for me.

Jane`s statement.

I was in the kitchen at the sink washing dishes with my back to the room. I heard a crack as though a percussion cap had been exploded in the vicinity of Alexander who was sitting in front of the window at the table. I glanced over to him as he appeared unconcerned, I turned back to my job and continued with it. I did not see any flash of light. The kitchen light flashed off for about one minute.

Alexander`s statement.

I was about to open the Scrabble Box. I was sitting at the window at the table. I heard a crack like a fire-cracker or a blown fuse. I saw Mum coming out of her bedroom and I saw a yellow light above her head filling the corner. The electric light in the kitchen went off for about 15 seconds and then came on again.

Mummy`s statement.

I was coming out of the bedroom en route to the bathroom when to my great surprise I heard an almighty crack similar to a gunshot

or a fire-cracker. I located this explosion at a point approximately 6 feet in from the open french windows and 3 feet from the edge of the table at ground level. Everyone appeared surprised. William was in his bedroom and I went to look for him. I saw no flash of light.

Dad`s statement.

I was just outside the open french windows looking into the sitting room. I saw a star-like flash approximately 5 feet high in the area somewhat to the left of Alexander, who was sitting at the table in front of the window,and in front of him. I heard a crack at the same time. I thought the lightning had struck the electric circuits. I went into the room quickly: there was a flash of lightning followed rapidly by a heavy roll of thunder.

Alexander was looking stunned and staring at his mother who appeared concerned over the welfare of William who was in his bedroom. Jane appeared quite unconcerned at the sink.

The flash I saw was white and was about 5 feet off the ground.

Conclusion.

There was an electric explosion in the sitting room just in front of Alexander,caused by lightning. A possible explanation as to how this force entered the room is that it was conducted by the telephone cable at the side of the front door.

Later.

Approximately 1 hour later we were all in the living room. A double crack was heard by all - Alexander saw the flashes travelling along the telephone cable inside the room . The telephone was not affected.

Mystery Big Bird and Other Strange Fowl

Part Two

Richard Colborne

"…I returned to this subject in a more recent thread. I'd originally thought the bird had a round head and I was very puzzled that I could not see its eyes or beak.

I eventually realised that I was NOT looking at the bird's head, but the curve of its neck and that it was carrying its head over its back, on what must have been quite a long neck. Its tail was extremely short and rounded. Its legs trailing. …It was absolutely nothing like any of the raptors we see around Britain…

I later discovered that there was a large body of water nearby, around which this big bird was circling. I guess it's a diving bird and it eats fish. I looked at pictures of Herons, Egrets and Bitterns,

and very soon found myself watching videos of Egrets and looking at hundreds of pictures of them flying and soaring.

Far from there not being any birds like the one I saw (as was suggested), the Great White Egret goes part way to filling the bill (no pun intended!). Though I could not find a single photo of an Egret with its head so far back that its beak couldn't be seen, I see no reason why a bird with a neck as long as an Egret couldn't do this if it wanted to.

Several pictures I found of Egrets gliding down to land, show very clearly the wing shape I originally described. A gentle concave curve on the leading edge, a slightly more pronounced convex curve on the

forward-facing wing tips. Presumably trailing edge and pronounced points on an Egret will also put its wings into this configuration when it's soaring; assuming they do soar, as the bird I saw was doing.

Having discovered that it was very much like a Great White Egret, I can say, it was definitely NOT a Great White Egret, for the following reasons:

*Its main wing feathers (secondary's I suppose) were straighter, squarer, broader, fewer.

*Its legs, though trailing at an angle (remember it was soaring slowly) appeared to be shorter (especially for the Great White Egret).

*Its tail was very short and rounded.

This last point is very important. An Egret has a short square tail; it's cut straight across on the rear edge. The bird I saw was remarkable for its tail (if nothing else), because it was even shorter than a Great White Egret, perhaps by 15%, and had a distinct curve along the rear edge. I didn't once see this bird fan out its tail feathers.

As I said; I don't expect you to spend time reading all this and answering me. However; if you do have the time, I would be grateful. One word answers may suffice: the names of the birds.
With kind regards,

Richard Colborne

Flying Monsters in Spain

Javier Resines

From 1923, in the indigenous region of Jiundú, a small contributory of the Zambezi river located to the northwest of Zambia, the writer Frank H. Melland was alerted to the presence in the zone of a strange flying animal. It was a species of reptile with bat wings, a long notched tip and wing -spread of more than two meters. When he taught some natives from a Bi–ology book that he took with him, the natives did not hesitate in identifying the great bird with the pterodactyl , a flying reptile which disappeared 65 million years before. The name they called it was *kongamato.*

In 1868 July, the scientific magazine *The Zoologist* published an article that narrated what the author observed at the beginning of the year himself in Copiapó, a place located in the Chilean desert of Atacama. After a hard day of work, a group of miners saw a gigantic bird with *"immense covered wings of grey feathers, a monstrous head that seemed like a lobster and great shining eyes. It had the body extended like a serpent, with shining scales, that created a metallic sound when the strange animal turned the body during flight."*

Fig 1. Paris-Madrid Race poster.

The Museum of Natural History of Los Angeles, in the United States, has displayed an extraordinary dissected bird of dark colour that has a wing spread of almost eight meters. For some it is small thunderbird, referred to in the legends of numerous North American tribes like the Ojibwa of lllinois. Apparently, these aerial monsters have come from the country and its neighbour Canada from time immemorial.

In New Guinea the natives of the Siassi islands coexist with colonies of Ropen, a being described like a species of enormous flying fox of long tail, with the snout of a crocodile and possessing frightful teeth and very sharp claws.

If it`s one of the prehistoric birds or a strange flying monster, the certain thing is that the history of strange sightings follow one another all over the globe. Also in Spain there are a surprising cases of flying animals that exist which are beyond the borders of the well- known.

Aerial attack in the heat of a race

For knowledge of one of these cases we must go to the research of Richard Muirhead, our publisher, thanks to whom we have been able to recover a peculiar event that happened in 1911. During the celebration of an aerial race between Paris and Madrid, several of the participants were attacked by tremendous birds that seemed like gigantic eagles.

The Paris-Madrid Race was celebrated between May 21st and 26th 1911, more than 1200 kilometres separated both capitals in three stages. The most famous pilots of the moment participated, including among all of them the most recognized in the sport ,the Frenchman Roland Garros…

During the celebration of the second part of the race, two of the aviators were attacked - both near the city of Vitoria and within a difference of a few hours by gigantic eagles that put in true danger their physical integrity. One of the pilots, Gilbert Ilegó shot with his revolver at one of these fantastic animals, hurting it.

What strange bird attacked these pioneers of aviation? Nobody ever knew how to explain it.

Fig 2. Le Petit Parisien cover 11-06-1911.

The gigantic bird of Barcelona

In June of 1990, a bird of gigantic size decided to frighten with its imposing presence and its disagreeable cries a good part of the inhabitants of Barcelona. Incredible or the truth? The extraordinary thing, in addition to the strange animal, was the way it was made known: through letters to the editor of a well-known Spanish periodical.

On the morning of 10th of June 1990, the readers of the Barcelona newspaper *The Vanguard* had the opportunity to read a brief letter to the editor sent by Pere Carbó from Condal City. In his letter the anonymous citizen said: "*I cannot do more than show my surprise about this unusual fact:on the 28th of May, some neighbours of the district of The Corts we awoke before the unbearable sound of a bird; not any bird ; our stupor was immense when going to the balcony and seeing a black silhouette of a bird of great dimensions. Perhaps it would measure between 3 or 5 meters, and I do not exaggerate.*"

(Fig 3. First article published in The Vanguardia newspaper about the Barcelona giant bird.)

Extraña y gigantesca ave sobre Les Corts

■ No puedo más que mostrar mi extrañeza ante este inusual hecho: la noche del 28 de mayo, algunos vecinos del barrio de Les Corts nos despertamos ante los insoportables "graznidos" de una ave; no una ave cualquiera; nuestro estupor fue inmenso al salir al balcón y ver una silueta negra de una ave de grandes dimensiones. Quizá debería medir entre 3 o 5 metros, y no exagero. Numerosos fueron los vecinos que lo vieron, y numerosos también los comentarios al día siguiente.

Supongo que en otros barrios, otras personas debieron verlo. ¿Qué era? Y lo que es más extraño: ¿Por qué no ha aparecido ninguna noticia en la prensa?

PERE CARBÓ
Barcelona

OPINIÓN

CARTAS DE LOS LECTORES

Endrecem Catalunya

(900) 30 12 24

Col·labori !
truqui al telèfon verd:

Un telèfon obert a la participació i a la informació ciutadana per a fer de Catalunya un país on viure. Protegir el medi ambient és cosa de tots!

MEDI AMBIENT

Only four days later the answer to the initial letter took place, signed by Jose Garcia: *"(...)over three or four days in the district of the Guinardó, we heard horrible and loud cries, that even made crystals vibrate . We went ourselves to the windows and we saw plainly a giant bird, of greater dimensions, in my opinion, appreciated by Mr. Carbó. In my opinion it would have been about 8 meters, of wing span. Its colour was black and the silhouette very similar, surprisingly, to the one of a dove. Another point to investigate is the mysterious disappearance of some cats that was observed before the appearance of the giant bird, as if they had fallen off the balconies, but without the corpses in the streets."*

Thus, during the following weeks, up to 53 letters were published by the Catalan newspaper, while the animal was observed in different parts from Barcelona and nearby localities. The descriptions gathered in different encounters with the

animal were very varied although the dark colour predominated (black or grey, mainly), with a wing spread of between 3 and 15 meters, that emitted powerful shrieks and, with membranous wings, resembled the prehistoric pterodactyl.

The scientists consulted could not give an explanation for the existence of an animal with these characteristics, offering the possibility of it being an albatross, a species unknown in the Catalan coast, or some corvid of tropical origin or simply a vulture.

The case, little by little, was losing informative interest and fell into forgetfulness although this animal - or another similar was seen over several years (until 1996) in diverse Catalan localities.

In addition, our bird was not only seen in European skies during that time. There were similar sightings in diverse cities in Italy and France only months before. The biologist Miguel Seguí I follow was interested in these cases publishing an article in the magazine *Year Zero,* in April 1992, indicating that the animals were similar to pterodactyls.

And in Andorra…A Phoenix!

If the possibility of the existence of the bird of Barcelona is fantastic, not too far from there there was another event in which another strange flying animal left a group of witnesses speechless.

The sighting took place on the 13 of April of 2001, between 21:30 and 23:30 hours, in Escaldes Engordany (Andorra). Jesus Serrano, a witness fond of astronomy, relates that he saw with his fiancè and other witnesses how a light in the form of boomerang made strange movements in the sky. With prisms binocular he managed to see "*a giant bird that flew shaking its wings that emitted a brilliant light with some reddish tones; the body was seen perfectly; as it had the form of an eagle or similar species I could not believe it; she was immense in relation to the distance that separated us."*

Up to here, the story of the happening is in accord with the main witness. A sighting that lasted, altogether, nearly two hours until the animal disappeared out of view at great speed. Sufficient time to realize that what had happened before their eyes was not normal, was a *"Phoenix"*, as defined .

This calls attention to the history published for the first time by the Argentine investigator Gustavo Fernandez in number 82 of the e-magazine `To the edge of reality`, corresponding to the 11 of September of 2002, in a monographic number dedicated to the supposed appearance of Unidentified Flying Objects at the Twin

Towers on the day the bloody terrorist attacks in 2001.

Fernandez indicated that the main animal protagonist of the case of the amazing winged beings of Andorra was morphologically similar to the ones caught by diverse video footage during the fire and later landslide of the New York buildings. A new piece of knowledge in the difficult to understand aspect of unknown winged animals.

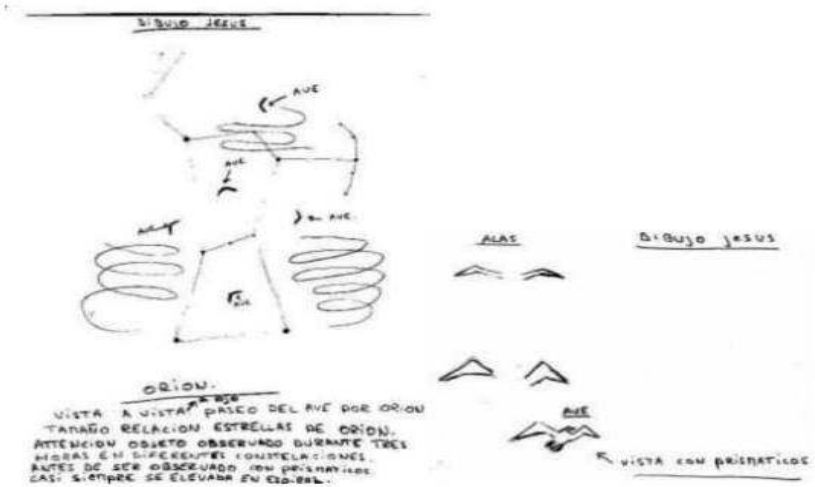


Fig 4. A drawing made by the Phoenix bird witness.

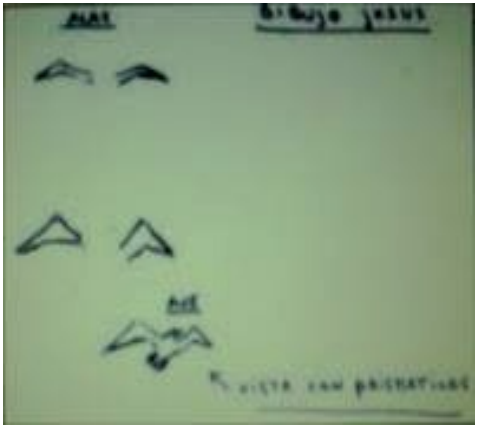


Fig 5. Another drawing made by the Phoenix Bird witness.

The incredible gargoyle of Valencia

The incredible history of the gargoyle of Valencia that we cover next comes to us through investigator Francisco J. Máñez, president of Valencian Association of Investigation in Parapsychology and OVNIS, and publisher of the defunct digital magazine Binnacle.

In 2004 Mànez published the fascinating history that an old fellow worker sent to him, who preferred to maintain anonymity. The case is that the witness was a five or six year old who lived in the residence that the family had in the district of the Carmen, located in the historical centre of the city of Valencia, when she witnessed something extraordinary.

One morning in November he decided to play on the roof of the building, like she did so many other times. On opening the door that gave access to the viewpoint, he discovered the presence of a strange bird perched on one of the railings that seemed to be overlooking the city from so privileged an observation post. The child did not approach the oncoming animal, which he described as large as an eagle, with wings similar to those of a bat`s and without feathers on its body. He could observe its face when the bird turned , after hearing it`s movements . What he saw left her horrified : the creature had an almost human face!

Our small witness could observe that the being had a body similar to one of a person and its legs finished in great claws. Without being worried before the presence of the small intruder, the bird flew with a slow and harmonious movement and disappeared of the Vista of the overwhelmed boy. What could he see? Surely, if the imagination did not play tricks with him, nothing well-known. A mixture of a person and a bird, a gargoyle, really own of the medieval bestiaries and not of skies of a modern European city. Perhaps, one of the 28 gargoyles of the building of the near and imposing Market of the Merchants decided to leave its stony existence and to leave to stretch the claws, although only outside by once. Who knows…

The Ropen in concert

We finish describing the strangest part of crypto fauna of flying Spanish monsters with a case that happened only seven years ago. In the summer of 2007 an English citizen had an amazing experience during the celebration of a multi-cultural festival of music in Benicassim, in the province of Castellón.

Fig 6. Details of the gargoyle in the Lonja de la Seda building,Valencia,Spain.

Again thanks to the research of our editor Richard Muirhead we have knowledge of these facts, published by Jonathan David Whitcomb in its work "*Searching for Ropens and Finding God.* "In the book, the witness affirms that she enjoyed a warm night at the end of the month of July, moved away of the noise of well-known festival FIB, when - little height on its head she saw what it seemed to him a small one Ropen, an animal similar to the described ones by numerous witnesses in distant New Guinea.

One was a flying being of small size, less than a meter, without feathers, it had a beak and an extended tail that could be seen for only seconds. The overwhelmed witness did not believe what she was seeing: a small pterodactyl flying over him!

This concludes the brief review of some of the mysterious creatures who fly over Spanish skies. Gigantic eagles, pterodactyls , a Phoenix, gargoyles, Ropen… what mystery hides in Spanish skies? New and strangers species? Prehistoric Animals that never have disappeared? We hoped to have answers some time soon…

Fig 7. 2007 F.I.B. Picture.

British Chameleons

Thanks to Bob Skinner for finding this information within the British Newspaper Archive whilst in Devon in August 2014 immediately before Weird Weekend.

BERKSHIRE CHRONICLE

December 7th 1844

MR EMERSON TENNENT - THE CHAMELEON.- Mr Emerson Tennent, one of the secretaries of the Board of Control,has sent a living chameleon to his constituents in Belfast, accompanied by the following letter:- "London,Nov.22 1844. On leaving Jerusalem, about two months ago, I brought away with me a number of chameleons, which I caught on the terraces and in the gardens of the Greek convent, on Mount Calvary, where Mrs Emerson Tennent and I were staying. I was desirous to send them to the Natural History Society in Belfast; and, knowing the difficulty of bringing them alive to to this climate, I carried with me seven in order to increase the chance of any surviving. Fortunately I succeeded in getting two of them to London, but one died two days ago ,whilst I was awaiting the opportunity to forward it to Belfast,and I can now only send you the survivor of the party, whom I trust you will find living on her arrival…As to their changes of colour this was incessant when at all disturbed. The colour,when at rest,suddenly changed on the approach of my hand,and when allowed to come out of the cage,and walk on the sofa or the carpet,the hue varied through all the shades of bright green and white to olive,dark green,brown,and black. When at rest or asleep, I observed that the light colours always predominate. I do hope this fortunate survivor will live long enough to enable our friends in the Natural History Society to observe its constitution and peculiarities - Ever faithfully yours, J EMERSON TENNENT

HEREFORD TIMES

April 28th 1849

A CHAMELEON IN ENGLAND - A live chameleon has just been Imported into Liverpool. Its colour is greyish green, but no change in its tints has been observed. It has been known to pass eight weeks without food or water,since its capture by its present owner.

WEST MIDDLESEX ADVERTISER AND FAMILY JOURNAL

August 30th 1862

Fete of the Third London Rifles

The third annual summer fete of the 3rd London Rifle Volunteers commenced on Monday last in the grounds of the South Middlesex Volunteers, Beaufort House,Walham-green, which has very kindly been placed at their disposal by Lord Ranelagh. In addition to a fancy fair presided over by a charming bevy of ladies, there was a most successful revival of all the glories of `Old Bartlemy,` with such additions and improvements as the lights of modern science have suggested. There was " "Richardson`s" show, with its tragedy,comedy,and farce artistically compressed into fifteen minutes; there were all kinds of other shows; Another most popular show was that of Messrs, Crawford and Mr Cooper,of the South Middlesex,who exhibited an Irish chameleon,captured in the wilds of Connemara, which had the singular property of changing colour every 25 minutes.

Chameleon Africanus. Wikipedia Commons.

DUNDEE ADVERTISER

August 12th 1867

CAPTURE OF A CHAMELEON IN THE STREETS OF LONDON - A chameleon was run over on Tuesday last by a cab on Snow Hill, where the road branches off to avoid the Holborn Valley Improvements. When first observed the little reptile was slowly creeping up the spokes of the wheel, which had nearly amputated its tail. Its rescuer, fearing to touch the creature with his uncovered hand, rolled it up in a handkerchief and brought it to our office for identification. On opening the parcel we found it contained a chameleon (Chameleo Africanus) It had been badly injured , the wheel of the cab having grazed the skin from off a considerable portion of its tail. We purchased the quaint-looking lizard, and having immensely alleviated all injuries by the judicious applicaton of glycerine, and its health by a feed of green caterpillars, we are happy to state that the chameleon captured on Snow Hill is in a fair way to convalescence. The reptile must have escaped from some package while being conveyed from one part of London to another. Possibly it might have been brought from a ship recently arrived from abroad. - *Land and Water.*

ALNWICK MERCURY

August 31st 1867

THE CHAMELEON - The mystery of the Snow-hill chameleon has been solved. It has been ascertained that on the day on which the interesting little stranger was brought to the office of *Land and Water* , twenty-seven chameleons and a hundred and forty-five tortoises took cab at the docks, in order to be driven to the residence of a dealer in foreign animals at the West end of London. As only twenty-six chameleons alighted from the cab when it reached its destination, it is believed that the twenty-seventh must have got out on Snow-hill.

HEREFORD TIMES

September 7th 1867

A CHAMELEON IN LONDON - The Snow-hill chameleon died suddenly a few days ago, although it appeared to be in a fair way to survive the injuries received during its metropolitan rambles. The tail of the chameleon is prehensile, like that of the spider monkey, hence these reptiles, when climbing about the trees in pursuit of insects , twist their tail round the branches and hold on by it, whilst the feet are employed in grasping other parts of the tree. When resting upon a twig, the tail is usually twisted round it. We may readily imagine that an injury inflicted on an organ so important would most likely prove fatal. Our surmise , that the chameleon had made its escape during its transport through the streets of London, proved to be quite correct. - *Land and Water*

NEWCASTLE COURANT

May 22nd 1885

An excellent specimen of the chameleon was found on board a steamer which arrived at Leith from Oran the other day .It was taken to the Custom House officers` quarters , where it formed an object of considerable interest.

CHELMSFORD CHRONICLE

September 8th 1893

A Chameleon was caught a day or two ago at the top of a signal post on the Great Eastern Railway by a son of Mr H. Clark, shopkeeper. Unfortunately it was killed before it was secured. The animal is supposed to have escaped from some private collection.

FALKIRK HERALD

April 29th 1903

AN INTERESTING BUT UNFORTUNATE VISITOR-The chameleon,as every schoolboy knows,can change its colour at will, but it is not so successful in changing its habitation. The other day the dead and dried body of a little chameleon was found firmly grasping a stem of a hedge-row at Winchmore Hill,in the North of London. The chameleon is found principally in the northern parts of Africa. Visitors to Morocco and other countries where this particular lizard lives often bring specimens home, but as a rule chameleons do not long survive their introduction into England. The stranger which died in such an extraordinary position at Winchmore Hill measures 9 ½ inches from the nose to the tip of the tail.

MANCHESTER COURIER AND LANCASHIRE GENERAL ADVERTISER

November 4th 1908

STRANGE FIND AT URMSTON

CHAMELEON IN A GARDEN

A remarkable find has been made by Mr James Macmunn, of Birchfield, Urmston. During the recent warm days he noticed what appeared to be a large lizard, some eight or nine inches long, in his garden. This was captured and forwarded to the Manchester Museum,at the Victoria University. Mr W.E. Hoyle,the Director of the Museum, in a letter to Mr. Macmunn, describes the capture as a chameleon. How a chameleon, chiefly found in Syria, Asia Minor and North Africa, found its way into and lived for some time in an Urmston garden is at present a mystery. A possible explanation is that the chameleon might have been brought up the Ship Canal by an incoming boat,and have left the vessel at Irlam Locks, a point about two miles from Urmston.

WESTERN GAZETTE

September 17th 1909

A CHAMELEON has been found in a load of hay taken from the Croydon Sewage Farm at Beddington. How the little creature came to be amongst such unusual surroundings is a mystery. It is at present alive and well.

WESTERN GAZETTE

January 27th 1931

CHAMELEON "STOWAWAY" AT SILVERTON

During the unloading of grass for paper making at Silverton Mills a live chameleon was found. The grass had been dumped into ships abroad,unloaded at Watchet,and conveyed to Silverton by train.

BRISTOL POST WEBSITE http://www.bristolpost.co.uk

September 12th 2014

NOT THE BRISTOL CROCODILE

Off colour chameleon found near river in Bristol ."The chameleon was found wandering around a grass verge by the road in Redcliffe. A scaly green creature has been found lurking near the river in Bristol. But don`t worry,it`s not the infamous Bristol crocodile, but this time a chameleon. A woman handed the unusual lizard to staff at Bristol Dogs and Cats Home in Albert Road,St Phillips on Wednesday.It had been roaming in a pitch of grass by the side of the road in Redcliffe. Staff tried to give the lizard food and water but she didn`t take it, and seemed incapable of gripping anything in the enclosure they made for her. They realised the chameleon may have some sort of metabolic bone disease and required specialist treatment, so yesterday got in touch with a specialist reptile vet…As well as the chameleon, the dogs and cats home currently has four snakes that were found roaming stray in the city."

The Hideous Ice Worm

Chris Woodyard

Reproduced with permission of Chris Woodyard of Haunted Ohio

Real Ice Worms--not hideous. Oh, the weather outside is frightful, so naturally I'm finding stories of Things Frozen in Ice delightful. This monster story is such a sparkling example of 19th-century journalistic invention and hyperbole, that it deserves to be cut into cubes and served in drinks with tiny umbrellas.

WORK MEN TERRIFIED

Alarming Experience at Lake Williams

First View on Record of the Hideous Ice Worm.

Astonishing Phenomena Seen by the Gang of Cutters.

Marlboro, Mass., Dec. 24. The sea serpent has a worthy rival.

The city has a unique Christmas present that makes its escape.

For several days men have been cutting ice on Lake Williams, and good ice it is, too. Yesterday there was a great commotion on and about the lake. Horses ran away, heavy blocks of ice melted in a twinkling, sturdy, rugged men fainted, while three were nearly drowned. The handles of tools were burned almost in a moment, ice hooks and other iron tools beas never have been thought or dreamed of in connection with Arabian Nights or Grecian mythology.

The workmen had for several hours been labouring industriously, with no thought of the severe fright they soon were to undergo. The first event of a phenomenal nature noticed was when the lake water began to grow warm. Then it increased in calorific intensity until it was at a boiling point and so vast was the amount of steam that it caused a first and second alarm of fire that brought out the entire fire department, but so dense was the vapour that the firemen could not come over French Hill.

The ice was fast breaking up and melting away, and a good part of the lake was boiling was the vapour that the firemen could not come over French Hill. The ice was fast breaking up and melting away, and a good part of the lake was boiling.

In order that all the facts in connection with this strange phenomenon be not lost sight of, it should here be stated that those who had been at work on the pond had crawled up the hill to the reservoir to sit on the ice there, to cool off, and awaited further developments with palpitating hearts and bleached faces.

Soon the air was filled with a salty savor, the steam and heat subsided, and then there shot into the air a stream of unmistakeably salt water. It furnished a most blissful reminder of last summer's vacation to those who visited the sea shore.

Next there was a seething, hissing sound, huge quantities of mud were flung high skyward, which was followed by a sound, which, as nearly as it can be described, was a cross between the trumpeting of a mastodon, the screech of a locomotive giving the danger signal and the premium work of a Fourth of July fish horn.

This was supplemented by the appearance of the

Most Horrible Looking Creature

that the eye of man ever beheld. In length it was about 70 feet. It had scales about a foot square, very symmetrical in form, lapping each other about a quarter of an inch and shining as brightly as the steel trousers that Margaret Mather wears in her character of the maid of Orleans.

Compared to it the sea serpent owned by the Sea Serpent Club, and annually seen at Marblehead is the paragon of all that is beautiful. Its head was wide as a board, and as flat as some speeches in Congress. Its teeth were about eight inches long, round and were as sparkling as a well-washed lager beer bottle. When it distended its jaws there was the sign visible, "Looking for a job in a dime museum."

Its tail was like that of a whale, only it was put on the other way. It was sharp and so flexible that this monster could use it with which to pick its teeth.

The nondescript had three eyes, one in the centre, and they bulged forth from the head to such an extent that they looked like three massive pins to a hat tree, upon which to hang coats. This never-before-seen had eight legs for walking, which were just long enough to reach from his body, which was round as a common sized hole, to the ground.

There were noticed upon its sides four wing-like protuberances, but no pin or tail feathers were discovered.

This strange and unbidden visitor emitted from its body so much heat that the adjacent hills, which were covered with snow and ice, had a rich brown crust baked over them, the crust thick enough to bear up one of Senator Blair's ponderous humorisms. So oppressively hot was it that persons in and about the city were out sleigh-riding in their shirt sleeves, if they had any. The molasses in the grocery store became so thin that it lost all its thickness, and the varnish flowed on the stowed-away carriages in the livery stables. It was hot enough to take the chill off of the junior senator of the State.

This half-fish, half-beast, with another half not yet determined, uttered sounds ranging from crescendo to diminuendo and half-way back again. It gazed through the valley and then took a bee line for Westboro. Its sharp

Like those of a cross-cut saw. In its progress over the ice it cut the same into regulation size cakes to repay the men for their time lost because of their trepidation. It half flew and a quarter waltzed across the lake's snow-white bosom.

Lest there should be discovered any inaccuracy in the narrative it should be stated that the "great unknown" cooled off before it began cutting, so that where it was at work the ice remained intact.

This monstrosity was followed in a balloon by a few adventuresome reporters of the local papers who saw it go upon Lake Cahucy in Westboro, and tie itself into a four-in-hand knot upon the ice there. It was discerned by some of the inmates of the insane asylum on an adjacent hill, who were heard to remark that the ghost of Sitting Bull was making a tour through the Indian settlements, and had just come from Mashpee, but this supposition is burdened with the weight of doubt.

The fiendish looking object roasted for a while, then generated heat enough to dissolve more ice, got into the lake, drank it up, found a hole, slipped into it, ate the hole and was lost to sight, though not to memory dear.

The paramount question in the city today is:

"Where did it come from?" This is asked by those who saw it with a well-baited breath. That part of Lake Williams where this hideous child of nature made its appearance

Has No Bottom

This has been verified by blind experts, and it has always been believed that because of that fact this lake is an outlet of the China sea, hence the volume of salt water that preceded the advent of the stranger, which by some is said to be a Chinese god on its annual vacation.

A number of well-known scientists have just held a session and have decided that this being an inland city it has no chance to get a glimpse of any of the numerous family of sea serpents, but that this being the baby city of the Commonwealth, it has been permitted to witness for the first time the fearful and devastating active partner of the brokers in congealed water—the much abused ice worm, which it was never permitted man to behold. The ice worm will be called upon the coming summer to McKinley prices, as its partner "scarcity" cannot be depended upon during the coming torrid period.

The life-saving crew was called up from Hardiman's brook to rescue those human ice cutters who sat on the ice in the reservoir to watch from afar off. They forgot to keep moving, thus the several basements of their respective trousers clung tenaciously to the glassy surface of that reservoir. They were pulled off with ice hooks—the men were.

Boston [MA] Daily Globe 24 December 1890: p. 16

Margaret Mather was a pretty Canadian actress with a gift for self-promotion and less of a gift for acting. Her Joan of Arc crashed and burned. Senator Henry Blair, of New Hampshire, was well-known as a wit and raconteur. To "McKinley" a price was to lower it, as prices for American goods fell after tariffs were passed. The Sea Serpent Club, founded by a Marblehead man, was an association of newspaper men and lawyers who gathered for convivial dinners and then "spotted" the sea serpent offshore.

My question with stories like this is, did anyone take them seriously and, in this case, go out to Lake Williams to view the carnage? It seems unlikely, given the extravagance of the language, but one never knows… Thoughts?

Chriswoodyard8@gmail.com

Map showing location of N.Dakota. Wikipedia Commons. Location of Lake Williams.

The spacing of the text is rather unusual in the above account because I am following the layout of the original web page. Richard.

Letter to Flying Snake

UNUSUAL FERAL CATS ON KERGUELEN

Dear Richard,

A couple of items from the Southern Hemisphere…

I found something interesting recently in a book about Kerguelen, the sub-Antarctic French archipelago, by Jean-Paul Kauffmann:

A cat jumps out from behind a rock: a vision of a black head with a pointed gash of white from its eyes down towards its nose. The white stamp splits the upturned snout of a nose, making the head look monstrously shrunk. It is like a demon or an incubus spirit appearing in a flash of lightning.

A cat in the Kerguelens! There are actually thousands of them in the archipelago. They are feral animals, descendants of pets abandoned by sealers and men on winter missions. They have puzzled the scientists for quite a long time. Contrary to all expectations , when they returned to the wild their craniums shrunk in size. Normally when domestic animals are abandoned and manage to survive, their cerebral capacity increases. They then realized that this great predator has no predator of its own to fear. On this treeless land, where birds build their nests on the ground, feral cats devour thousands of young petrels. They also eat a lot of young rabbits. They have no rivals, so that no effect is required to get food. Hence their "intelligence" has regressed…

(*Voyage To Desolation Island* 1993) p. 103 f.

The rabbits, by the way, are also introduced. British astronomers visited Kerguelen in 1874 to observe a transit of Venus , bringing with them rabbits to eat, which escaped, bred proverbially, and munched their way through the fragile botanical ecosystem of Grand Terre (the largest island).

Secondly, I`ve always been intrigued by this description of an " E.T." type entity from Australia mentioned by the Bords in a chapter on " Winged people and other non-humans." The witness is Beryl Hickey of Mandurah in Western Australia, the date 1930:

It had big ears, a wide slit mouth and glistened as though it was wet or covered in oil. It stood about half a metre tall, with bulging eyes covered with a film.

It was obviously not human, yet it had perfectly formed little hands and feet and was pink like a baby…

Modern Mysteries Of The World (1989), p.147, quoting a reference from Perth *West Mail* from December 25, 1982).

In a recent Channel 4 programme called Alien Investigations, three similar alleged E.Ts were convincingly demonstrated to be misidentifications of terrestrial species. An " alien" from Metepec, Mexico was identified as a fake fashioned from the corpse of a marmoset, the " Montauk Monster" as a decomposing raccoon, and an entity seen swimming by boys in Panama as a three-toed sloth that had lost its hair.

So what creature might Beryl Hickey have seen? Over to you…

Mr George also sent me a photo from The Daily Telegraph (date unsure) showing a baby wombat found in Victoria, Australia which he thought might be the W. Australian entity.

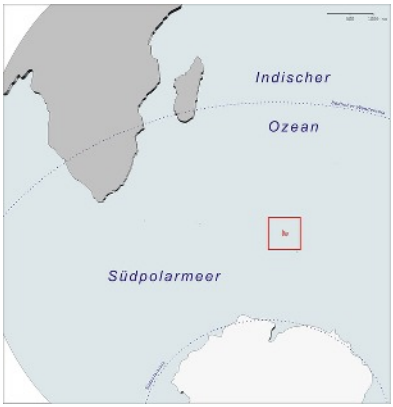


Fig 1 Kerguelen`s location in S Atlantic. Wikipedia Commons.

Fig 2. Map of Kerguelen. Wikipedia Commons.

NOTES & QUERIES

THUNDERBIRDS NEAR SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO

This is a reply I received via the Experience Project on July 7th 2013 to my question "Has anybody ever seen any strange animal? “

"It happened in 1986, I heard it flapping it's wings. I was sitting by a window, it was about 50 feet away. It was early afternoon, summer but still light out. I seen only the back of it. As it lifted off the ground and flew over my house. I didn't know what it was until two years later. I saw it on an episode of Un known creatures. Remembering back, the winds picked up and a big Thunderstorm hit us, that's why the American Indians called them Thunderbirds. Since then I have met Indians around the pueblos around Santa Fe that know people that have seen them too.” From TxRocker.

PECULIAR SPECIES OF MOUSE IN INVERNESS-SHIRE AND ROSS-SHIRE

http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19625#page/195/mode/1up

Magazine of natural history and journal of zoology,botany,minerology,geology… vol 7 (1834)

“Large amounts of mice, not the usual field mice appeared and the foxes began to feed upon them instead of lambs. Mr Frazer…says that “their general colour was brown, with a white ring about the neck; and the tail likewise tipped with white; a light coloured stripe down the nose and along the back.”

Tree growing out of top of chimney, Black Rd,Macclesfield, c.1994. Reproduced with permission of Ollier Photography, Macclesfield.

QUERY: Carl Marshall would like to know if any mystery big cats have been seen in the Warwickshire and Worcestershire area in the last 12 months?

SALAMANCA REPUBLICAN PRESS

July 9th 1947

Baby and Python on Beach ,W.Palm Beach 1926

Via Kay Massingill

LARGE ANT ON GIBRALTAR

The photo below, taken in about 1992 in Gibraltar, shows an ant 1 inch long. I cannot recall who gave me the photo.

Photo:The Editors collection.

Above: **THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER**

October 14th 1893 .Via K.Massingill.

LANTAU DUGONG OF SEPTEMBER 29th 1940

“Europeans call them "Du Gong". A westerner in Hong kong went off-shore fishing a few days ago and unexpectedly caught a "sea cow" in waters just off Chung Sa Lau ( ) on Lantau Island. Approximately 6 to 7 feet long, shaped like a huge torpedo, with a pointed head and round tail and dark all over, this type of "sea cow" is known to live in the Pacific Ocean and Europeans call them "Du Gong". It is rumoured that another such creature was seen in Hong Kong 50 years ago” Source: Possibly Facebook.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE May 3rd 1889

A REMARKABLE SNAKE

Mules horses and children killed

By a strange monster

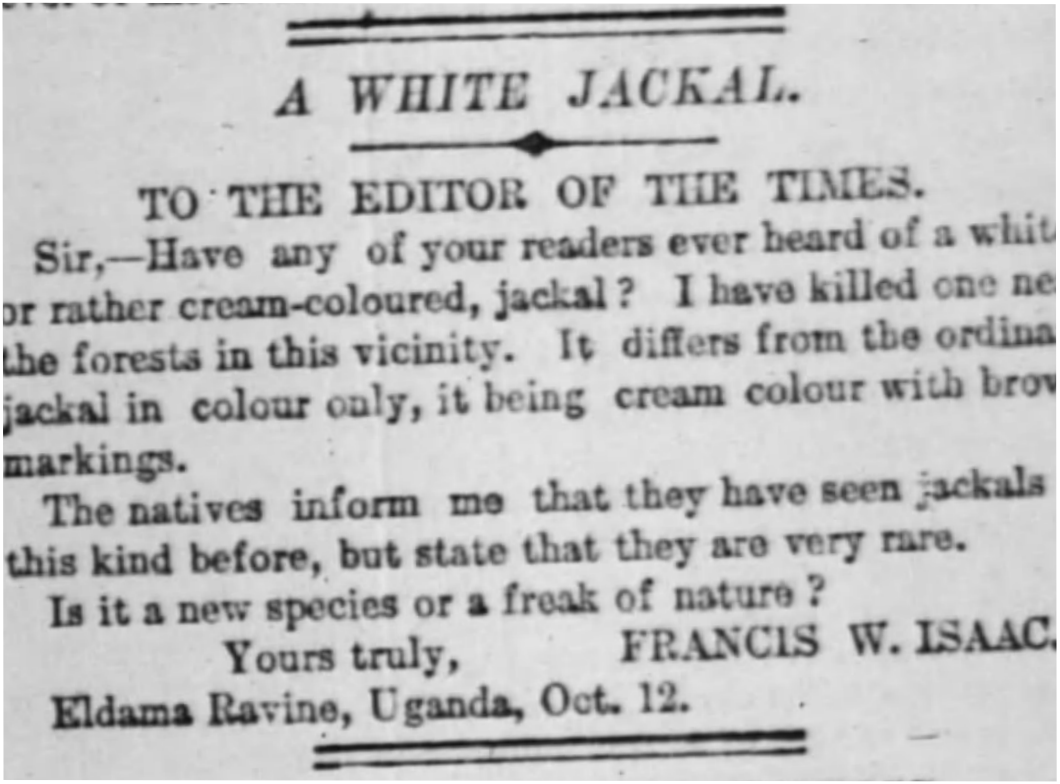
During the past two months it has been a mater of frequent complaint among the inhabitants of the districts east and north of Arima, on the island of Trinidad, that their domestic animals of all kinds were being lost in a strange unexplained manner - usually at night. Latterly even large animals , some valuable mules and horses, had gone to add to the smaller fry that had disappeared. At first the blame was laid on thieves of unusual daring, but it was soon clear that some monstrous animal was the depredator, although strangely enough no trace of blood could be found at the spot visited or its neighbourhood. No animal large enough to carry off a horse or a mule was known to exist on the land. The people began to watch at night, and it was noticed that the traces through the vegetation always stopped at streams and seemed to vanish altogether after that. Several children suddenly disappeared , to add to the horror of the mystery; and a grief stricken mother , while sitting by her hut mourning the loss of her five-year-daughter, was, on the very day following the child`s disappearance, a terror-stricken eye-witness of the carrying off of her three-year old boy by a colossal snake.

Pursuit by an armed body of residents proved fruitless. It was surmised from the rather imperfect description given of the approximate color,rings,and spots of the snake, that it was a survivor of the extinct race of gigantic huilliar, or local anacondas,occasionally met with in the old days in the Oropouche, Arima,and others of the island. Finally, after many more depredations by the monster, who was several

times seen in different mountainous localities, the matter was thought serious enough by the warden (?) of the island to warrant making a request through the Colonial Secretary for assistance From Port-of-Spain. The story of the occurrence was also considered by the Central Agricultural Board, and in the course of the meeting Hon Dr De Verteuil stated that in his opinion the snake was a huilliar. Early one morning a cavalcade, heavily armed, set out from Arima and proceeded to the Blue Mountain,in the neighbourhood of which searching parties had located the snake the day before. He had been seen to enter the Guacharo caves in the hill separated from the mountains by a hollow, and the party gradually formed a cordon round the hill. A portion of the party entered cautiously into one of the openings leading into the interior of the great caves, and had scarcely done so when the head of a monstrous snake suddenly appeared on the surface of a large pool. An angry hiss, like the plunging of a red hot iron into the pool, issued from the hideous head, and then a volley of bullets were fired into him. A second volley was necessary to produced the desired effect,and was fired as he lifted his huge carcass fully twenty-five feet out of the water. When dragged out to the level he was found to measure forty-seven feet and was two and a half feet through at the thickest part. In colour he was yellow on the under part of his body and dark above,having dark rings,between which the skin was variegated with semi-lunar grey discs. His snakeship was dragged to Arima and steps taken to preserve the carcass in the council hall of Port-of-Spain. The matter was made the subject from the American Consul to his department at Washington.

Map of Trinidad and Tobago.

Wikipedia Commons.



A WHITE JACKAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Have any of your readers ever heard of a whit
or rather cream-coloured, jackal? I have killed one ne
the forests in this vicinity. It differs from the ordina
jackal in colour only, it being cream colour with brov
markings.

The natives inform me that they have seen jackals
this kind before, but state that they are very rare.

Is it a new species or a freak of nature?

Yours truly, FRANCIS W. ISAAC.

Eldama Ravine, Uganda, Oct. 12.

Above - Letter to **THE TIMES** of London on November 29th 1901 about a white jackal in Uganda. On December 3rd a letter appeared also in The Times from Mr C W Marshall, Yatesbury,Calne, Wiltshire. "I see in the Evening News that someone has written to you an account of a white jackal and asks if anyone has seen one. About thirty-five years ago ,Mr J.G. Malcolm of Ramnugga, Bengal took out my dogs near Khamarbarce and killed a white jackal. He had the animal brought to me to see. It was a creamy white"

Another white jackal story from the **GREENSBORO RECORD** (North Carolina) July 13th 1956. "A white jackal without a single black or brown hair was killed near Van Reenan`s Pass , South Africa. No one remembers seeing a jackal with such albino purity."

OUT OF PLACE ALLIGATOR IN CALIFORNIA

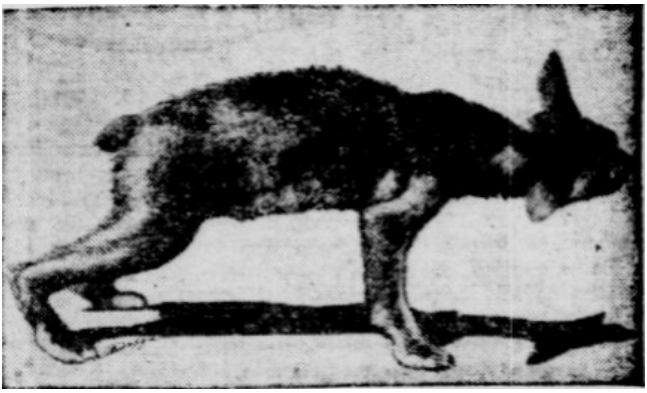
PETERSBURG ALASKA NEWSPAPER November 25th 1932

A strange creature. George Laurtisan of Monteca,California,after hearing tales of a strange creature in a creek, went fishing with a butterfly net and captured a 22 inch alligator. See following page for location.

A FELINE FREAK

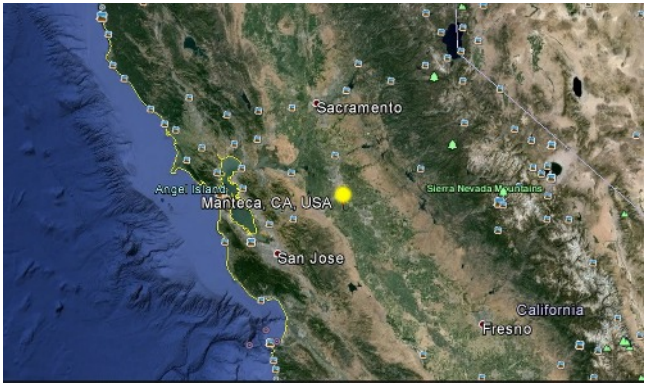
A Remarkable kitten whose parentage is clouded with doubt

LOS ANGELES HERALD September 29th 1901



Out on Hope street lives a black kitten whose feline sensibilities must often be agitated by a species of wonder as to who and what she is. Things have always been a bit mixed up with her from her birth, which must have happened when nature was in a freaky mood. Kitty is as black as the proverbial ace of spades, and when she sits facing you, blinking comfortably, she looks as lucky as any other black cat. But just say " Scat!" And you wonder immediately whether it can be a cat that is springing away from you. For kitty`s little hind legs are both really longer than they ought to be, and they have the sharply angled joints and the poise exactly of the jackrabbit of the sagebrush. And the infinitesimal tuft that does duty for a tail above the ziggzaggy legs should by right of scarcity and resemblance be attached to the last-named animal also.

Below © Google Earth. Monteca ,California.



Nature created in kitty an unusual physiological or zoological wonder when she made of the sprightly little animal what she seems to be, a cross between a common house cat and a jackrabbit. Not content with this natural mix up, the people owning the kitten have named her " Jerry" , when she should have been named "Miss Kitty Jackrabbit" .When kitty`s mother , a sleepy little house cat who lived with some good people on the road to San Fernando, was lost in the mountains for some weeks, there was for days some consternation and the oft-repeated wonder: "Would the cat come back?" She finally did, and "Jerry", now two and one half months old, was one of a litter of seven kittens born soon after her return. At birth each had the same pronounced rabbit-like physical characteristics which increased with their growth. But they all went to the place where all surplus good kitties go, and "Jerry" alone is left to wonder what kind of a cat she can be when she don`t like milk. For, strangely enough , she eats fish, meat and bread, but will not touch milk. Her fur is remarkably soft and fine, and another strange and unfeline part of kitty`s nature is that she has no distaste for being put in a tub, fur and all, and given a bath. She does not object to water outwardly or inwardly,and drinks it straight. She prefers the branch of a tree as a sleeping place. "Jerry" is very intelligent ,and is at this early age

very nearly as large as was her mother when full-grown. Her eyes have the true green gleam of the cat, but in the shape they remind one of those The ears are larger than those of an ordinary kitten and have a somewhat peculiar motion, and another peculiarity of “Jerry`s” physical variation,or whatever it may be called, is that she seldom if ever assumes the comfortable position, something between a crouch and a curl-up, so common to other cats, but lies stretched out much after the manner of a dog.

All this leaves “Jerry`s” family relationship a matter for discussion and inquiry. Meantime, she goes on placidly making the best of things at the home of her owner, P.A. Sculary of Maison Doree restaurant.

ALFRED DEZENDORF.

†

Peculiar “boar” or other unknown quadruped, Ireland,from Walker`s Hibernian Magazine. February 1781. Editor`s collection. Animals and Men 14. 1997.

BERMUDA FLY-ANGLE

Pigeons get lost as comet hits Jupiter

Don Mackay

DAILY MIRROR

August 23rd 1994

Hundreds of racing pigeons are vanishing into thin air - because crashing comets have disturbed the earth`s magnetic field, claim bird fanciers. Top breeder Graham Chupka has lost dozens of young birds this year, as if they were disappearing into a pigeons`s Bermuda Triangle. And he believes comet activity is knocking the birds off course by affecting their homing instinct. "Nobody knows what is going on," said Graham, of Tilehurst, near Reading Berks. " Some youngsters which have come back have been very jittery." He has lost dozens of pigeons since the comet Shoemaker Levy-9 crashed into Jupiter last month. " That could have upset the earth`s magnetic field, and in turn, upset the bird`s navigation," he said. " No one knows how a pigeon`s homing instinct works. But some experts reckon they follow the earth`s magnetic lines. " If those lines are upset, then the bird`s homing mechanism would also be upset." But other pigeon fanciers believe birds are vanishing because of pollution. They say traffic fumes are blocking the birds sense of smell. The birds are thought to use this along with a "sun compass" and a sense of magnetic field to navigate. Breeders are reporting up to 50 per cent of birds released not making it back to their lofts. The Royal Pigeon Racing - which numbers the Association Queen Mother among its members - says losses are greater than they have been for the last 20 years.

FRENCH "DRAGON" OF 1912[1]

NICE HAS A DRAGON

Strange Sea Monster Causes Panic

In Italian City

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL June 23rd 1912

Residents of La Turbie Are Badly Frightened and No One Dares to Ven

[1] Thanks to Bob Skinner

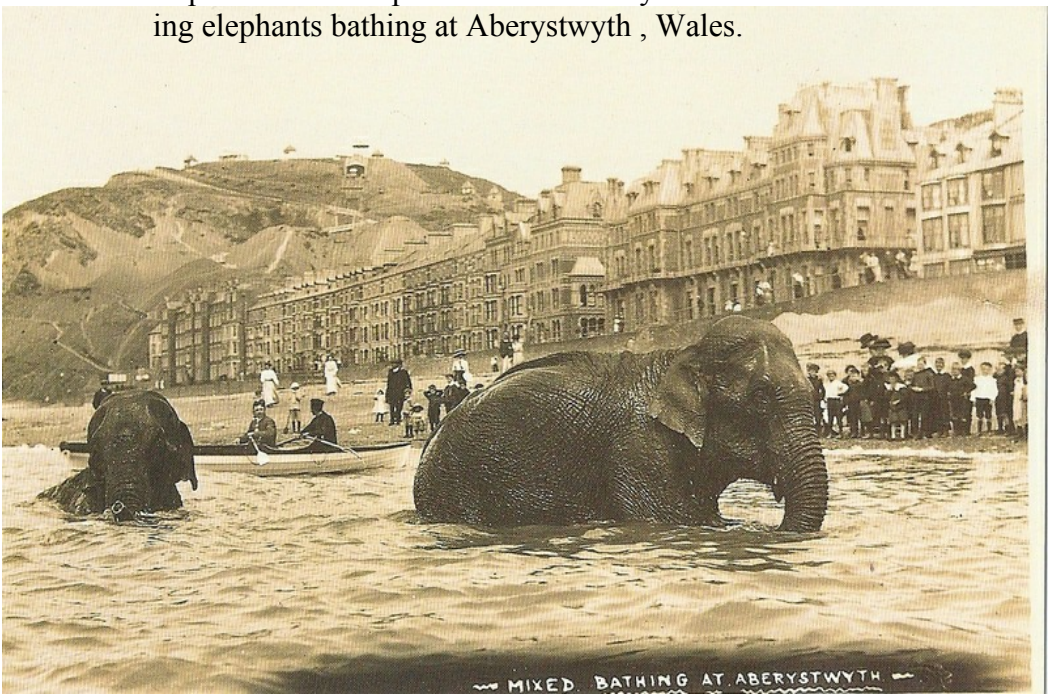
- ture on Highways Without an Armed Escort.

Nice - They say it is about two metres long and at least thirty-five centimetres broad, with enormous jaws well furnished with dentistry, but what kind of an animal it is no one knows. For the past several days the residents of La Turbie have been living in deadly terror of it. A search was organised , but as yet only two persons have met the "thing" face to face.

About 11 o`clock in the morning recently a boy was passing through the quarter known as " Les Routes" carrying dejeuner to his father, who is employed in a quarry. Suddenly an animal stranger than any he had ever seen appeared in his path. The boy ran, but so did the animal. Just as he was about to be caught the boy climbed on to a block of stone. The animal managed to get on its hind feet and was about to grasp the boy in its terrible jaws when the automobile which runs between La Turbie station and the Mont-Agel golf course approached. Frightened at the noise the "wild beast" took fright and fled. (Continues on following page.)

†

Reproduction of a post card dated July 5th 1911 showing elephants bathing at Aberystwyth , Wales.

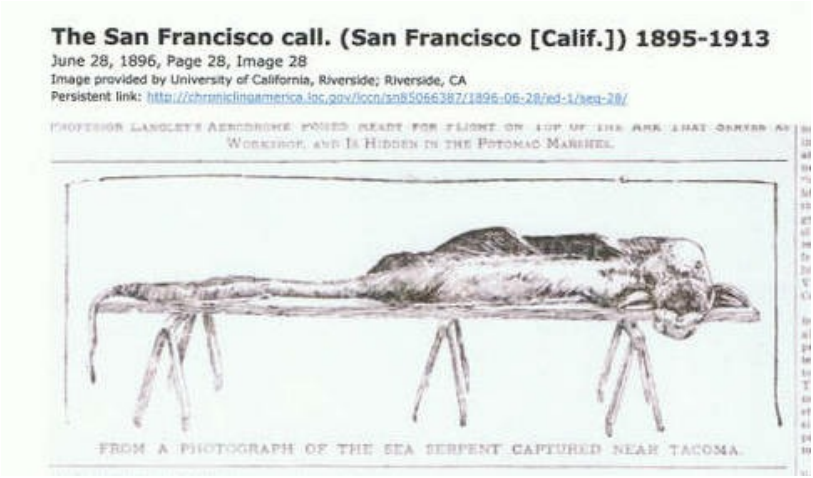


The boy shows marks on his breast which he says were made by the animal when it was reaching for him. He also declares the animal was covered with huge scales.

A posse was organised immediately and started in pursuit, but not even a trace of the animal was seen. Yesterday a laborer at the quarry says he found the strange thing stretched across the Mont-Agel road. The man was on his way to work, and upon seeing the animal he ran all the way back to the village. He swore he would never go to the quarry again. La Turbie residents who do not believe in material manifestations of the supernatural say that the animal is a crocodile which has perhaps escaped from a menagerie. And why not, they declare, “Marseilles had its tiger!”.

Crypto-alcohol. Photo of `Yeti` ale on sale in Macclesfield a few years ago.

ODD SEA CREATURE


The San Francisco call. (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1895-1913
June 28, 1896, Page 28, Image 28
Image provided by University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA
Persistent link: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1896-06-28/ed-1/seq-28/
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SEA SERPENT CAPTURED NEAR TACOMA.

STRANGE WATER LIZARD IN DORSET

Magazine of natural history and journal of zoology,etc. Vol 6 (1833) p.379. " A Water Lizard, Or Newt at Maiden Newton, Dorset. I have heard, from two different persons, that a very odd sort of water lizard is found there."

SNAKES EGGS FOUND IN DEVON STALAGMITE

The Rev Mr Hannah obtained some snake eggs embedded in a stalagmite in the Oreston caves ,it says on p. 107 of The Natural History of South Devon John C Bellamy (1839) "Probably modern."

http://www.archive.org/download/naturalhistoryof00bell/page/n146_w420

HUMMINGBIRD IN DEVON

Magazine of natural history,journal of zoology,botany...vol 2 .p. 402 1829.

The General Gazetteer,speaking of Devonshire,mentions that " In the western parts there is a bird so very small, that it is reputed to be a hummingbird,and,like that bird,builds its nests on the extreme branches of trees"… pray,sir,can you or any of your correspondents inform me what bird is here meant?"

BLACK BIRD CROWING LIKE A COMMON COCK

Magazine of natural history,journal of zoology,botany…Vol 4. 1831 pp 433-4. Wold Rectory near Northampton. April 27th 1831.

CREATIONIST STANDPOINT ON THE GIRAFFE

The following appeared in the publication Creation vol 18 no 5 2014 pp 1-2:

In the September 2009 issue of this journal we covered some of the extraordinary design features of the giraffe, which of course imply a Designer. Along with numerous other scientific evidences throughout the natural world , them confirm our belief in the veracity of the Bible…Here,then,is yet another item of evidence for discussion, also from the anatomy of the giraffe. It concerns its ability to stand . The BBC News website reported recently on the work of a research team studying giraffes at the Royal Veterinary College of London (http://goo.gl/BW9Guz, accessed 03 July).

The researchers drew attention to the fact that , for such a tall creature, the legs of the giraffe seem unusually spindly. As Mr Christopher Basu, the PhD student who led the research, commented, " Giraffes are heavy animals (about 1000kg) ,but have unusually skinny limb bones for an animal this size. This means their leg bones are under high levels of mechanical stress. " So how do they manage to stay up?

It turns out that the secret lies with the suspensory ligaments. In the giraffe they are inserted in unusually deep grooves in the lower leg bones. Experiments utilising hydraulic presses on the legs of giraffes that had died in captivity demonstrated that their limbs are able to remain upright and stable, with no additional support, even when under applied loads slightly greater than the giraffe`s body weight. Mr Basu explained that this specialized anatomy " adds great stiffness to giraffe limbs." As a result giraffes are able to support their huge weight without actively engaging as much

muscle, which reduces fatigue.

He went on to say "…robotics often draws inspiration from animal movement …so studies of this long-legged long-necked animal could inspire such oddly proportioned robotic - or even prosthetic - designs."

These are interesting comments. Let`s think them through a little, without the evolutionist blinkers in place. So the giraffe`s anatomy is " specialized". Who then was their Specialist? And the research team`s findings could inspire the design of robotic or prosthetic machines. Design,eh? So Who designed the creature from which they draw their inspiration? The implications are clear to anyone with an open mind, anyone who can think for him/her self rather than being told what they are required to think. (1)

TOAD WITH WINGS

Grantham Journal August 28th 1869

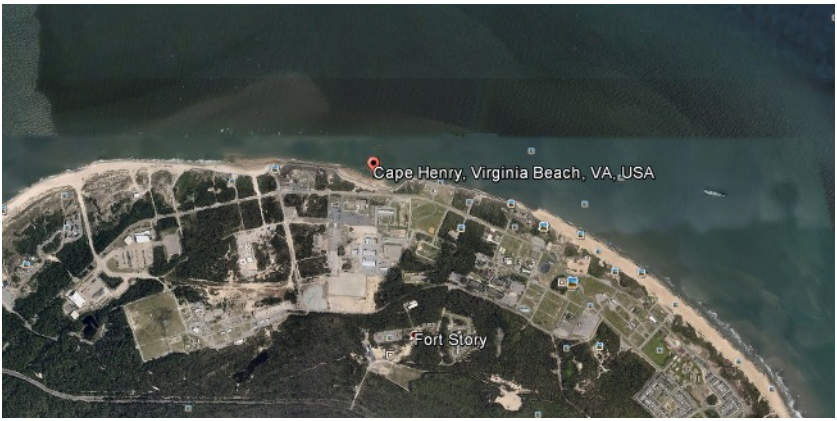
" An American paper reports the capture of a flying toad at Cape Henry, a few days ago and says it is now in Washington. It is of most singular conformation and of beautifully variagated hues measuring about six inches in length, with a perfectly flat,bony back, eyes wide apart and in the centre of a circle, capacious mouth, and fins as large as wings about the centre of the body on each side." See also page 64.

DOG FINDS ITS WAY FROM LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK

Bob Skinner e-mailed this story on page 64 to me,from the London Dispatch, August 4th 1839 p.5

STRANGE, IF TRUE - A dog belonging to a gentleman at Oswestry was lost at Liverpool some time ago. Its master offered a reward for its recovery without success. Some time after he received a letter from a friend in New York (who knew the dog in England) that the dog had arrived at his house,immediately recognised him,and had become exceedingly comfortable in the society of his old master`s friend."

†



Location of 1869 "toad with wings".

© Google Earth.

Below - from Kay Massingill.

From: **PICTURES OF FLYING CREATURES OF MANY KINDS**
Nicolaas de Bruyn 1594

Photo taken by myself in Aggtelek National Park, Hungary on May 14th 2009 of an Emperor Moth (Saturnia pavonia.)

PL. XI
To the Rt Hon.ble Lady Charlott Townshend Baroness Ferrers
This Plate is most humbly Dedicated by her Ladyships most obliged & faithful Servts
Moses Harris J. Gretton

Chough in Grosvenor Museum, Chester. Shot at Head of Great Orme at Llandudno, N. Wales. Came into Museum in 1906.

MID - NINETEENTH CENTURY ACCOUNT

OF A HIMALAYAN WILD MAN TRIBE

Kidd`s Own Journal c. 1856 vol 5 p.250 mentions a race of wild men in the Himalayas called the "Harrum-tao" living in the head of a wooded valley at a district called Mund-po,beyond Bah;they shun habitation and speak an unintelligible language, They wear there hair in a knot and use the bow and arrow. They eat snakes and vermin. Dr Hooker.

VERY STRANGE RABBIT

Source unknown.

HORNED RABBIT SENT HERE; SHOT IN MIFFLIN CO.

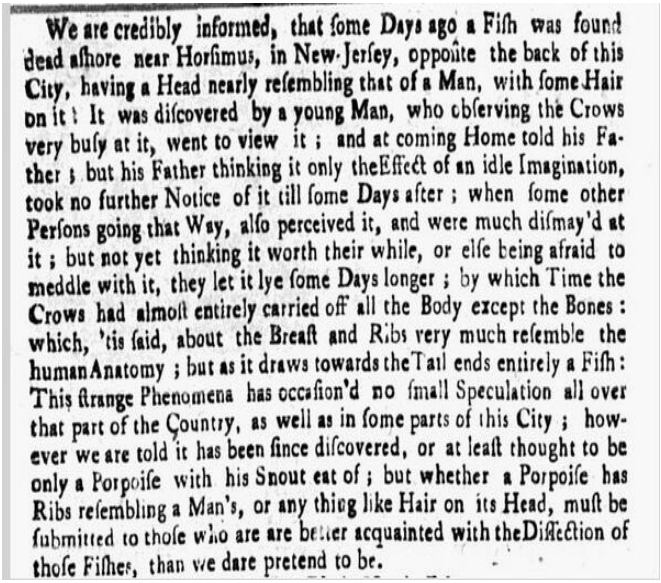
By United Press

LEWISTOWN, Nov. 2. — A horned rabbit was on its way today to George M. Sutton, of the State Game Commission at Harrisburg.

The cottontail, bearing five horns, varying from half an inch to an inch and a half long, was shot yesterday by Elwood Harmon, 18, near Stone Mountain.

Game protectors and experienced hunters who have seen the freak animal said they never before had seen anything like it.

SEAL OR DUGONG?



We are credibly informed, that ſome Days ago a Fiſh was found dead aſhore near Horſimus, in New-Jerſey, oppoûte the back of this City, having a Head nearly reſembling that of a Man, with ſome Hair on it: It was diſcovered by a young Man, who obſerving the Crows very buſy at it, went to view it; and at coming Home told his Father; but his Father thinking it only the Effect of an idle Imagination, took no further Notice of it till ſome Days after; when ſome other Perſons going that Way, alſo perceived it, and were much diſmay'd at it; but not yet thinking it worth their while, or elſe being afraid to meddle with it, they let it lye ſome Days longer; by which Time the Crows had almoſt entirely carried off all the Body except the Bones: which, 'tis ſaid, about the Breaſt and Ribs very much reſemble the human Anatomy; but as it draws towards the Tail ends entirely a Fiſh: This ſtrange Phenomena has occaſion'd no ſmall Speculation all over that part of the Country, as well as in ſome parts of this City; however we are told it has been ſince diſcovered, or at leaſt thought to be only a Porpoiſe with his Snout eat of; but whether a Porpoiſe has Ribs reſembling a Man's, or any thing like Hair on its Head, muſt be ſubmitted to thoſe who are are better acquainted with the Diſſection of thoſe Fiſhes, than we dare pretend to be.

BOSTON POST-BOY

February 17th 1746. Via K. Massingill.

STRANGE ANIMALS IN THE DORDOGNE, FRANCE

I met a man in the White Lion pub in Macclesfield in late October who told me some interesting stories. His father had told him that he had seen a pine marten in the New Forest, Hampshire about 10-15 years ago. He said also that his mother or grand-mother had seen very large cats in the Dordogne. A pink praying-mantis had turned up in a garage there too.

COYOTE IN NORTH WALES ?

In about October 2014 a co-worker at Oxfam told me his grandmother had seen and photographed a coyote somewhere in North Wales " a few years ago." I`ve not been able to obtain a copy of the photo.

REFERENCE

1. Creation Vol 18 No 5 August 2014. Journal of the Creation Science Movement

Carpathian brook lamprey (left) Ukrainian brook lamprey(right) in Northern Hungary. © Richard Muirhead.

Book Review

The Dolmen by Matt Bille. 2014.

ISBN 9781936099771

The Editor brandishing issue 1 of Flying Snake.

I must admit I have very limited experience of what could loosely be described as the "fantasy/thriller" genre of literature as far as one with a cryptozoology theme is concerned,the last time being reading a novel about an invasion of a community by giant crabs in the 1970s,but I was very pleasantly surprised by Matt`s novel. The quotation from Kathy Brandt on the cover, " Matt Bille makes the fantastic entirely too real and terrifying in this fast-paced novel about the instinct to survive" is totally apt.

Bille skilfully weaves his interests in cryptozoology with modern urban life, namely Los Angeles and its Police Department. He brings in his extensive knowledge of cryptozoology (the "korrigans" are the villains of the story,being an ancient clan of short, almost dwarf or ape-like alien types, who dwell beneath Celtic dolmens, those megalithic tombs) ,crime, technology and urban myth, (e.g alligators in sewers. Used as a bogus story to hinder alarm in Bille`s novel. In fact as is well known,alligators are said to have inhabited some sewers in the U.S. Such as one in Rockford,Illinois in 1946) Bille`s novel is a fast moving story of how an author, Greg Preston,travels to Los Angeles to help an old friend, Julie Sperling solve the murder of her fiancé Walt Revis. It turns out that Revis`s murder was no ordinary one and as the murders continue the highly violent korrigans,displaced in time and distance from their dolmens ,are the clear culprits. Anglophile millionaire, Mr Windsor, brings a dolmen in murky circumstances to his museum near Los Angeles. In doing this he unleashes many korrigans upon the residents of the city. After the korrigans appear to have the upper hand for a while, chased by police and scientists who are at first highly sceptical above and below the city ,they are finally cornered in a gym and destroyed, all except two…If this is ever made into a film, I expect Matt will play Greg and I`ll play the eccentric Mr Windsor!

The Victorian Ethos Of Discovery
HUNT EMERSON
www.cosmicpolymath.com

The Victorian Ethos Of Discovery

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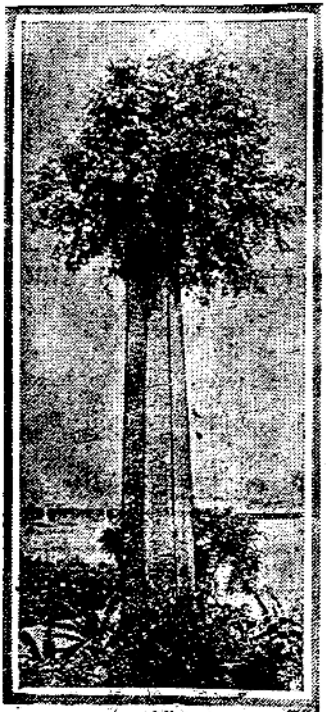
Freak of Nature Tree Grows Up Through Chimney



On the island of Trinidad this curious freak of nature can be seen. The brick chimney was part of an old sugar mill, long since abandoned. The solidly-built chimney has remained, and up through its center one of the quick-growing trees of the tropics has sprung.

TREE GROWING OUT OF CHIMNEY IN TRINIDAD